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abandonment. The attitude of the educated native controls the masses in matters of this nature, and there is abundance of evidence that nothing can be accomplished worth the effort when any of their religious rites and customs are apparently interfered with.

Disinfection is not at all popular. Many houses have later become reinfected from rats or persons, which may have had its influence upon the popularity of sulphur gas, the usual agent. Haffkine's inoculations are generally considered more efficient in controlling the disease than disinfections. In the Punjab, where the death rate has recently exceeded 1,500 per week, it is reported that some headway against the ravages of the disease has been made by the systematic and repeated use of inoculations, combined with segregation and thorough disinfection.

Now that plague has gained such a hold throughout India, it is difficult to prophesy as to its future course and termination. With the forcible opposition to attempts at its control in some of the centers in which it may be expected most certainly to retain its hold, it almost seems that about all that can be looked for is the natural subsidence which has been known to occur in the past.

Report from Bombay—Work of the plague research laboratory on inoculations against plague and on snake venom—Plague mortality.

Acting Asst. Surg. Edward H. Hume reports, January 23, as follows:

During the past week Dr. W. M. Haffkine has handed to me a number of pamphlets and reprints concerning the work of the plague research laboratory here. They are on two distinct lines:

1. Plague investigations, including Doctor Haffkine's summary as to the health of the inoculated; a report of observations in Aden; a study of the effect of germicides on *B. pestis*, and Major Bannerman's summary for 1897-1900.

2. Investigations on snake venom, by Captain Lamb and Doctor Hanna.

I have to report that further study on snake venom is not now being conducted in Bombay, because the horses which are being immunized for the preparation of antivenene do not react so well in this climate as they would upcountry. For this reason Captain Lamb is now continuing his studies at Kussauli, an upcountry station. A considerable number of cobras and Russell's vipers are still kept in the Bombay laboratory, and the venom, extracted once in two weeks, is dried and forwarded to Kussauli. The process of extracting this venom from both varieties of snakes is very interesting.

Doctor Haffkine has also asked me to call your attention to the alterations necessarily introduced in India in making the prophylactic, on account of the vegetarian principles of the Hindoos and the universal hatred of anything prepared from the body of the pig. The most important alterations recently adopted are these:

1. The use of an artificial method of peptonizing meat. To every kilo of goat's meat 150 cubic centimeters of hydrochloric acid are added and the mixture heated for six hours at a temperature of 144° C. (Beef would be objectionable here, and peptone is ordinarily made from pigs' stomachs, etc.) Starting with the above formula and heating as described, at the end of the process a large excess of acid remains and has to be neutralized with caustic soda. This produces sodium chloride in excess, and the mixture has to be greatly diluted. To avoid these

difficulties the amount of acid is reduced to 80 cubic centimeters per kilo of meat, instead of 150 cubic centimeters, and the heating is continued for six days at 80° C., then for three hours at 144° C.

2. To the broth culture of *B. pestis*, containing the bacterial toxins, is added a considerable amount of a growth on agar, it being believed that this will add to the finished prophylactic a needed amount of the bodies of the bacteria. A four days' growth on 300 square centimeters of agar surface is emulsified in 400 cubic centimeters of a 2-months'-old culture in broth.

The pamphlets forwarded with regard to the results of inoculation with plague prophylactic will make clear what has been so often repeated, i. e., that there is no ill effect following the inoculation either in the healthy, those already in the incubation period of plague, or those suffering from other diseases, as tuberculosis, etc.

Plague mortality increasing.

Plague mortality in India is increasing each week, the largest relative increase in the week ended January 9 being in the native State of Hyderabad. The general feeling is that the epidemic will be less severe this year than for several years past.

JAPAN.

Report from Yokohama—Sanitary conditions good—Plague in Formosa—Infectious diseases in Yokohama in 1903.

Assistant Surgeon Moore reports, January 22, as follows:

During the week ended January 16, 1904, two steamers having a total personnel of 240 crew and 271 passengers were inspected.

During the period of three weeks ended January 16, 1904, infectious diseases were officially notified in this city as follows: Enteric fever, 4 cases, 3 deaths; diphtheria, 16 cases, 6 deaths; dysentery, 2 cases, 0 deaths. No new cases of pest have been reported in Yokohama for a period of almost two months. The sanitary status of the other principal ports of Japan continues good.

Cases of plague continue to be reported from Formosa, the number of cases occurring in that island from January 1 to 19, 1904, numbering 13, of which 9 have resulted fatally.

An official statement of infectious diseases in Yokohama during the year 1903 has been received as follows: Cholera, 0 cases, 0 deaths; smallpox, 2 cases, 0 deaths; typhus fever, 0 cases, 0 deaths; enteric fever, 205 cases, 57 deaths; scarlet fever, 3 cases, 0 deaths; diphtheria, 153 cases, 47 deaths; plague, 42 cases, 34 deaths; plague (doubtful), 1 case, 0 deaths; dysentery, 159 cases, 22 deaths; dysentery (doubtful), 14 cases, 3 deaths. Especial attention is invited to the rarity of smallpox at this port, which constantly maintains intimate commercial relations with infected places. At least one of the two cases of smallpox reported occurred in the person of a foreigner.

Report from Nagasaki—Immigrants for Honolulu recommended for rejection.

Sanitary Inspector Bowie at Nagasaki reports, January 25, as follows:

Two Japanese immigrants for Honolulu recommended for rejection January 25, 1904.